

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 12/22/03
Approved 01/12/04

I. Call to Order.

Chair Lloyd Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. There were present Jenifer Landman, Selectman, Paul Cuetara, Selectman and Michael Pardue, Town Administrator. Mr. Pardue served as the Recording Secretary for this session.

II. Selectmen Items

A. Public Hearing (2) of (2) in accordance with the requirements of RSA 41-14-a re: Proposed purchase of property located at 239 Atlantic Ave. North Hampton.

Ms. Susan Fowler Boies addressed the Board. Ms. Fowler Boies read a letter she had authored in response to the proposed purchase of 239 Atlantic Avenue. Ms. Fowler Boies requested her letter be entered into the records of this public hearing.

The Board thanked Ms. Fowler Boies for her letter and for taking the time to express her feelings on this matter.

Ms. Pat Shepard expressed her displeasure as related to the proposed purchase of 239 Atlantic Avenue. She stated that she is "outraged" by the newspaper article citing that there is unanimous consensus to purchase said property. She further stated her opposition to destroying the "beauty" of Atlantic Avenue.

Ms. Landman stated that it was the feeling of the Heritage Commission that the historical value of the home had been lost due to it having been divided into apartments. Ms. Landman further explained that chronology that led up to this public hearing and the proposed purchase of said property.

The Board went on to explain that the current owner desires to sell the building and the Town was exploring the opportunity.

Ms. Shepard explained that she is not desirous in prohibiting the growth of the library but was interested in preserving the "old" home. Additional discussion took place related to expanding the existing library or seeking other alternatives.

Mr. Sullivan explained the rights of citizens to initiate a Citizen's Petition in relation to this matter.

Ms. Landman again voiced the benefits associated with the acquisition of 239 Atlantic Avenue.

Mr. Sullivan advised the audience that the purpose of this public hearing was to seek input concerning the proposed purchase. He advised that should the purchase become a reality, the development associated with this parcel remains open; although it was highly likely that a library would be strongly considered.

Mr. Cuetara advised the attendees to not simply base their comments or understanding solely on what gleam from the newspaper.

Mr. Richard Goeselt addressed the Board and the attendees from his perspective as the past Chair of the Municipal Complex Committee. Mr. Goeselt provided a brief overview of the study conducted by said committee and the related findings and recommendations.

The public hearing was called to a close by the Board at 7:38 pm.

B. Meet and Welcome New Public Works Employee

Newly hired Public Works Employee Jon Hoxie was introduced to the Board by Road Agent Robert Strout.

C. Mosquito Control Bid Opening

One bid was received from Municipal Pest Management Services

The Board opened and read the bid for mosquito control services. The bid provided for costs associated with up to a three-year proposal. Year one totaled \$97,500 and each subsequent year allowed for a 3% inflation factor.

MOTION: Ms. Landman made the motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$97,500 for the year 2004. Mr. Cuetara seconded the motion.

Discussion: A resident recommended the Board not sign a three year commitment until the success (or not) of this program could be determined for the year 2004.

VOTE: 3-0.

D. Senior Tax Credit

Ms. Landman spoke of the recent assessment, indicating that said assessment served as the basis for this matter to be inserted as an agenda item.

Mr. Cuetara spoke about his percentage based formula as opposed to the fixed figure approach.

Mr. Sullivan asked Ms. Landman to continue researching this matter for inclusion on the 2004 Town Meeting Warrant.

E. Perambulation of Town Lines

It was agreed that research time was needed to determine when this effort is due in relation to Greenland, Stratham and Rye.

F. Cemetery Winter Maintenance

Mr. Pardue explained that he had received a call from a gentleman who had expressed his displeasure with the fact that the Town chooses not to plow the roadways of the cemetery. The Board discussed this matter, expressing great concern that plowing of the roadway would likely impact grave markers and gravesites. The Board took no action on this matter.

G. Town Report Cover Discussion

Ms. Landman explained that she had contacted a local photographer who has offered to take Town related photographs on a snowy / sunny day.

The Board asked that Ms. Landman invite this photographer to attend a future Board meeting to discuss their approach to this effort and to further offer professional suggestions.

H. Dedication of Town Report Candidates

The Board discussed various options. Ms. Landman offered the name of Ms. Jane Palmer. Ms. Landman provided those in attendance an overview of the many accomplishments of Ms. Palmer and her valuable contributions to North Hampton.

MOTION/VOTE: Ms. Landman made the motion to dedicate the Town Report to Ms. Jane Palmer in recognition of her many contributions to North Hampton. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

I. Master Plan Update

Ms. Landman advised the Board that she had developed a Master Plan related list on behalf of the Board. Ms. Landman explained that the list she referenced addressed the Board's accomplishments as related to the Master Plan.

Mr. Pardue provided the Board copies of Master Plan updates as submitted by Department Heads of: Public Works, Police, Fire and Library.

J. Heritage Commission Warrant Article

Ms. Landman offered the new wording to be included on a proposed warrant article related to the Heritage Commission. Ms. Landman advised that Susan Slack, Esq. NHMA, had approved the language for the proposed article.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Sullivan made a motion to encourage the Heritage Commission to include this article on the Town warrant. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

K. Assessment Certification Process

Mr. Cuetara referred to information contained on the web site. Mr. Cuetara stated that the message displayed on said site, as authored by the Town Assessor Howard Promer, provided a clear and concise overview of the assessment process.

Mr. Cuetara explained the meaning of “neighborhood” as related to the assessment process.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Cuetara made the motion to invite representatives from Vision Appraisal to attend a Board of Selectmen meeting for the purpose of discussing their scope of services as related to their contract and obligations therein. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

Ms. Landman expressed that she had received a number of calls and emails related to the assessment process. She further expressed her concern related to her belief of inconsistencies within the process. Ms. Landman continued, stating that she had concerns about the interest rate that a taxpayer can be charged in relation to the assessment process.

Mr. Sullivan provided a historical overview of how this process evolved and the mandates imposed by the State. He further noted that the Town, based upon the recommendation of the State, selected Vision to conduct the mandated Assessment Certification Process.

Mr. Cuetara voiced that he performed a great deal of research in comparing properties and found what he believed to be gross inconsistencies. Mr. Cuetara spoke of his idea of printing property cards on 3”x5” cards and mailing the for citizen reply.

Ms. Landman suggested that a sampling of the assessment certification performed by Vision be audited if their explanation is deemed substandard.

J. Questions/Comments Related to Above Topic Areas

A resident inquired about the assessment Certification process. The Board explained the role of Vision and the role of Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) over the next four years.

III. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Pardue made his report to the Board. Issues discussed were as follows:

1. FD employee illness is at a high level.
2. **Tennis courts are experiencing some cracking due to weather. Brenda has sent a certified letter to the company that constructed / installed the courts expressing our concern and reminding the company of the warranty provisions made at the time of service.**
3. **The Town has (tentatively – pending minor revision) secured a matching grant related to the MS-4 (Storm water) requirements. Red and Bob worked collectively on this. The grant is for approximately \$7,000.**
4. **There is a desire to remove the two pianos in the Town Hall – any ideas on what to do with them. They have been described as in poor condition.**
5. **BAN application has been completed – Bank of NH is attempting to move process forward in order to meet requirements of PSA related to conservation land purchase.**
6. **Friday, December 26th - proposed day off for staff members.**

B. Correspondence

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he had received a Letter of Resignation from the Route One Corridor Study Committee as submitted by Mr. Donald Gould. The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Gould's effort while serving on this committee. The Board discussed Mr. Gould's replacement.

MOTION/VOTE: Ms. Landman made the motion to appoint Mr. Robert Landman as a representative to the Route One Corridor Study Committee. Mr. Cuetara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

C. Approval of Minutes

- i. December 3, 2003 Open Session – Approved 2-0.
- ii. December 8, 2003 Open Session – Approved 2-0.
- iii. December 8, 2003 Non-Public Session – Approved 3-0
- iv. December 9, 2003 Non-Public Session – Approved 2-0 (1 abstention)
- v. December 16, 2003 Open Session – Approved 2-0 (1 Abstention)
- vi. December 16, 2003 Non-Public – Approved 2-0 (1 Abstention)

D. Veteran's Exemption

The Board signed two Veteran's Exemptions.

E. Tax Abatements Requests

The Board signed off on a number of tax abatement requests that were deemed “tax exempt” by the Tax Collector. The recommendation of the Tax Collector was attached to this group of abatement requests.

F. The Board discussed a General Assistance request for an abatement of taxes under the claim of hardship.

MOTION/VOTE: Ms. Landman made the motion to deny the request for abatement of taxes due to the claim of hardship, basing her motion on the information available to the Board at this time. Mr. Cuetara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

G. Payroll

Payroll was reviewed and signed off on.

G. Manifest

The manifest was signed off on.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board in open session, Mr. Cuetara made the motion to adjourn the open session and move into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Open session temporarily adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator